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SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1962

Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector -

J.E. FANNON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

1st July, 1963.

To The Chairman and Members,  
Sherborne Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1962.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration, the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

There was no increase in incidence of notifiable communicable disease.

I have taken the opportunity to circularise with this report a table of statistics extracted from the Census Reports of 1951 and 1961 which you may find interesting.

Your attention is specially called to the observations I have to make on page 4 and elsewhere with regard to the inability of your Public Health Inspector to carry out efficiently his statutory duties due to the increasing pressure of other duties.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Fannon, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. I. Sartin and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

*Leslie Pearson.*

Medical Officer of Health



SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

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- A. Area - 41,481 acres  
 Rateable value: 1st April 1963 - £111,461  
 Production of a penny rate: 1962/63 - £165 (est)  
 1963/64 - £451 (est)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 6,090

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
				(a) Sherborne R.D.	(b) England & Wales
Total	58	51	Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate	56	51	resident pop:		
Illegitimate	2	Nil	= 17.9	18.6	18.0

STILLBIRTHS

Total	1	1	Rate per 1,000		
(Legitimate)			live & stillbirths		
			= 18.0	18.0	18.1

DEATHS

Total	37	16	Rate per 1,000		
			resident pop:		
			= 8.7	8.8	11.9

Deaths in					
infants under			Infantile death		
1 year	1	Nil	rate per 1,000		
Under 4 weeks	1	Nil	live births		
Under 1 week	1	Nil	= 9.1	9.1	21.4

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	3	3	Nil	Nil
" " Other Cancer	6	12	5	19
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)	7	10	12	9
" " Other heart or vascular diseases	16	18	25	13
" " Influenza	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
" " Pneumonia	1	3	2	Nil
" " Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	3	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents	Nil	2	Nil	1
" " Suicide	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



B. Nature of the District

The district is rural in character, its main industry being agriculture. A large number of outworkers carry on glove making in their homes for factories situated outside the district. A large dairy, with a wide supply area, is situated within the district.

The district is becoming increasingly a dormitory area for persons working in Sherborne and Yeovil.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society.

Prevention of Disease

Prophylactic Inoculations

Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

An immunisation treatment session was held regularly in Sherborne on the third Friday in the month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

During the year the following treatments were carried out.

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>
<u>Poliomyelitis</u>			
Two treatments (Salk)	84	299	352
Three treatments (Salk or	446	313	551
Four treatments Oral)	55	462	
<u>Diphtheria</u>			
Primary treatments	107	65	95
Booster treatments	71	35	114
<u>Whooping Cough</u>			
Primary treatments	92	59	90
Booster treatments	24	13	17
<u>Tetanus</u>			
Primary treatments	177	92	214
Booster treatments	117	29	29
<u>Smallpox</u>			
Primary vaccinations	149	67	87
Re-vaccinations	225	3	15

#### D. Environmental Health Services

##### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is rather less than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector (Part time) - J.E. Fannon,  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

The Public Health Inspector also carries out the duties of Meat Inspector, Refuse Disposal and Maintenance of the Council's sewage schemes.

Clerical Assistance - One Clerk (Part time)



## Public Health Staff (Continued)

From time to time I have drawn your attention to the pressure of work on your part time public health inspector.

As more and more private and public development takes place in the district more and more time has to be given by Mr. Fannon to the inspection and supervision of new drainage works in the district with resultant less time being available for statutory sanitary duties.

Instead of him being out in his district looking for nuisances and inspecting defective house property, more often than not nuisances and defects come to his notice by way of complaint than from routine inspection. This should not be so.

When the Wessex Water Board has taken over the responsibility for the Council's water supplies, his part time Clerk will have more time to give to public health work and this will be of some assistance, but the help which Mr. Fannon really requires is that of a technical assistant who can assist him in his technical duties, principally related to drainage problems and practice.

## WATER SUPPLY

Negotiation continued during the year toward the formation of a Water Board with the adjacent local Authorities with the result that the Wessex Water Board is due to take over the Council's water undertaking in October, 1963.

### Quantity

Adequate supplies have been maintained throughout the year, the Thornford borehole being the principal source of supply from the Council's sources supplemented from the Leigh supply.

A number of small private supplies remain in use in the district, the quality of which are doubtful as they arise from surface springs. The pollution, however, is not considered to be of a dangerous nature.

Water is taken from the Sherborne Urban District to supply parts of Castleton Parish.

All the Council's supplies are chlorinated and regular samples of the public and private supplies are taken for bacteriological examination and (where applicable) free chlorine estimation.

Three samples for chemical analysis and seventy one, for bacteriological examination were taken during the year.



It is regretted that I am unable to give up to date figures, asked for by the Ministry, with regard to details of household supplies in the district. The lack of routine house inspection during recent years makes this impossible.

The required figures were given in my Report for 1959 and I have no doubt that there has been material improvement since that date.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Bradford Abbas The sewerage scheme for this village was completed during the year.

Private development continues at an increased rate and in Bradford Abbas the disposal plant will soon be loaded to its maximum design capacity. It is anticipated that little more expansion of this village will be approved by the planning authority and with careful maintenance the disposal works should continue to produce a satisfactory effluent. But, there will be no margin and it may eventually prove necessary to increase the capacity of the aeration beds.

Thornford The sewerage scheme for this village was completed during the year.

Yetminster At the close of the year the outline scheme for sewerage in this village was with the Ministry and since then approval has been received to go to tender during 1963.

Osborne A proposal to provide a disposal plant for the twelve Council houses together with additional dwellings for old people was prevented by the refusal of the County Council Small Holdings Committee to sell the necessary parcel of land. Drainage conditions there still remain unsatisfactory and further consideration will have to be given to this problem.

General Whilst the Council is to be complimented on its sewerage development in recent years the lack of this facility in so many villages in the district remains as the major obstacle to improvement of existing houses and building of new.

A particular site, at Longburton, with a potential of twenty four houses is being restricted to eight by reason of the necessity to provide septic tanks. Where such sites are available and builders are prepared to instal adequate disposal plant to the satisfaction of the River Board the Council might well consider taking over these plants and maintaining them, from the general sewerage rate, in the same way that the Council housing sites are maintained from the housing maintenance fund.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse Collection The monthly collection of house refuse has been maintained. The Council considered increasing the frequency of collection but in view of the existing tip being almost exhausted it was decided to defer such improvement to the service until a new tipping site could be obtained.

## Public Cleansing (Continued)

Salvage The value of salvage sold during the year was £26.5s.10d. a reduction of £8 on the preceding year. Waste paper was not sold but at the end of the year an outlet was found for this material and it is hoped that some improvement will be shown in the cash return for salvage in subsequent reports.

Cesspool Emptying The contract for this work at the Council's housing sites has been continued and is operating satisfactorily.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

With the coming into force of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961, it will be obligatory, before 1st June 1963, for all discharges of sewage effluent which were existing before 1st October 1951 to be referred to the appropriate River Board for consent.

Conditions will be set as to the standards of purity required and will effectively re-inforce the powers already existing under the Public Health Acts to abate nuisance from these sources. The Council, as property owner and sewerage authority has its own obligations to apply for consents and meet conditions which are laid down.

The perennial question of foul ditches so often referred to in these reports will now be brought into sharp focus since the question of their ownership, particularly at the point of discharge to streams and main rivers, will have to be determined if action is to be taken to secure their improvement.

Where no consents are applied for, pollutions will have to be traced to source and if necessary statutory action taken against the offenders.

It is evident that many of these cases will be referred by the Rivers Boards to your Council as sanitary Authority and one can foresee a further considerable increase in the work of this department on duties of that nature.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was called for or taken during the year.



FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures are omitted)

	<u>No. of Premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspec- tions.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	2
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	3
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	5	-
	37	5
<hr/>		
No. of cases in which defects were -		
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Sanitary Conveniences		
Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil

No case was referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

No. of outworkers - Nil.

It will be noted that only five inspections were carried out by your Public Health Inspector compared with twenty five in the previous year.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one open air bath at a private establishment where members of the public have occasional access by invitation.

Proposals were made for the construction of a small swimming pool at Bradford Abbas School and plans were in an advanced stage at the close of the year.

This is a very welcome project and one hopes that other schools will be able to do the same.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

Sixteen sites were licensed during the year under the Caravan Sites (Control and Development) Act, 1960. They were all for individual caravans, usually for temporary use and created no problem.



## VERMINOUS PREMISES

Informal action was required in connection with one person, living under grossly insanitary conditions, in a caravan on an isolated unlicensed site.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The work of the Committee continued to function smoothly and expeditiously.

## RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act, within the district.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

## SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Twenty two visits and inspections were made at schools in respect of sanitation, meals facilities and water supplies.

Improvements, including a new sanitary block were completed at Nether Compton School.

Unfortunately, in the absence of a public sewer, it was necessary to provide a cesspool in the forecourt of the school buildings which will need careful control if nuisance is to be avoided. But the abominable vault closet is finally done away with and conditions for the children are now ideal.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention and living under insanitary conditions, although consideration of the practicability of using this power was made in respect to the case referred to on the preceding page.

## HOUSING

Total No. of Houses in the district 2,064

### Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year 23

No. of inspections made 47

No. of informal notices served 1

No. of informal notices complied with 1

No. of statutory notices served 13

No. of statutory notices complied with 7

No. of houses reported under Section 16  
of the Housing Act, 1958 7

Action taken by the Local Authority in  
respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made 2

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure 1

Reconditioning 4

Other Action(Demolition) Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during  
the year Nil

It is noted that only twenty three houses were inspected during the year compared with forty during the preceding year.

### Slum Clearance

Very limited action was taken during the year with regard to slum clearance. An appreciable number of houses in the district are recognised as being unfit for habitation but in the absence of new houses being made available for re-housing, limited action only is practicable in enforcing closure or demolition of unfit property.

Some of these unfit houses are slowly being rendered fit. It is in respect to such property, largely, that discretionary improvement grants are sought.

### Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year.

### Houses Known to be Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

### Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

Thirty four applications (compared with twenty in 1961) were received during the year for discretionary grants under the above-mentioned Act, eighteen applications were received in respect to standard grants compared with twelve during the preceding year.



## Improvement Grants etc., (Continued)

The provision of standard grants is undoubtedly a most valuable step towards making properties lacking basic amenities more habitable and it is only regretted that an increasing number of such grants are not sought, particularly in respect to rented property.

### Provision of New Houses and Re-Housing

Sixty four new houses were built in the district by private enterprise (compared with twenty seven in 1961) and ten by the District Council.

Although during the year the Council only built ten new houses (old people's bungalows) it is satisfactory to note that the Council has now adopted a policy of renewed unrestricted building both for old peoples dwellings as well as for general purpose needs.

The Council house waiting list still reflects a present shortage of houses to let in the district and any action to ameliorate the conditions under which some of these applicants are living is welcomed.

Ninety five applicants were on the Council house waiting list at the end of the year, of which seventy four were resident in the district, compared with ninety five and eight respectively, at the end of 1961.

Twenty four applicants were re-housed by the Council during the year.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### 1. Milk

#### Food & Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'Dealers' subject to registration by the District Council 3

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration 1

No. of 'Distributors' subject to registration 3

#### Samples

Three hundred and one samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination during the year. Of these one sample of tuberculin tested milk and four samples of pasteurised milk failed to pass the test.



## Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

A further complaint was received during the year with regard to the uncleanness of milk bottles, in which milk bottled in your district was distributed elsewhere. Although no prosecution has yet been carried out in respect to these complaints the matter is being given constant attention.

## Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20

No formal action was called for or taken during the year.

### 2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	19
Canteens - School and workplace	2
Confectioners	2
Meat and Fish	1
Grocers	-
Mixed Stores	20
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	3
Food Factories	3
Stalls (Mobile shops)	1
Other (Slaughterhouses)	1

No. of above-mentioned subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	20
Sausages & Prepared Meats	1
Fish and Chips	Nil

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test Nil

No. of above mentioned premises inspected during the year 11 (24)

No. of inspections carried out 11 (31)

The reduction in the number of inspections carried out compared with the number in the preceding year (in parenthesis) is to be noted.

## Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1947 - 1952

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

## Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping of Food etc.

These byelaws are operative within the district.

Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the district.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	129	-	-	163	2
Number Inspected	129	-	-	163	2
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	1	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	4.65	-	-	.61	50
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-



## Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned foodstuffs are disposed of by incineration except in the case of large quantities of meat or meat carcasses when it is sent to a knackers yard.

## SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,015
Total No. of informal notices served	16
Total No. of informal notices complied with	10
Total No. of statutory notices served	15
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	9
No. of prosecutions	Nil

### E. RADIATION HAZARDS

What information has been made available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out by Central Departments suggests that no deterioration has taken place in the position.

### F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

#### Other than tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	10
Pneumonia	3
Scarlet Fever	3
Whooping Cough	1
Erysipelas	1

#### Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>

3

-

#### Food Poisoning

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.







